THE

ORDEAL.

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REVIEW.

'The pretension of visiting ships of war has never been brought forward, so far as we know, except accidentally in two cases; and in these it was given up, before time had been allowed for discussing the subject. This is the reason why no direct authority can be found upon the point in writers on the law of nations, and no stipulation respecting it in treaties. But all the general principles which are recognized, both by authors and negociators, most uniformly and positively exclude such a pretension.—*Ed. Rev.*

THE AMERICAN REGISTER, &c.

Concluded from page 246.

THE discussions of the questions produced by the affair of the Chesapeak and Leopard were for a short time suspended by the expectation of the arrival of a special minister from Great-Britain upon the subject; so that when Congress met in October, 'the American government was still uninformed of the state of the controversy.' In the VIIth chapter our author informs us of the discussions which took place in Congress before Mr. Rose's arrival, the state of parties, and the measures adopted by Congress in consequence of the President's message, at the opening of the session. We find nothing in this relation which is repugnant to our own views of the subjects he mentions, excepting the following observation respecting France, to which we cannot prevail upon ourselves to assent. 'Such is the influence of party zeal, that the transactions in the Chesapeak seemed to be hastening to oblivion in the minds of one class of the people, while a deeper animosity was expressed against France than ever, though no very gross and flagrant injustice had been recently committed by that state against us.'

Our author does not presume to hazard any political reflections on the various topicks, which the singularly unfortunate situation of our foreign affairs naturally produced; but seems contented to offer an abstract of the arguments used by others, and leaves his readers to form their own conclusions. Whilst an historian should be scrupulously attentive to truth in his narrative of circumstances, yet we think he sinks into a chronicleer, when he proceeds on his course of description with-

out hazarding a single original reflection, or suffering his own opinion to be discovered, excepting by some oversight in expression. It is extremely ludicrous, however, in the impending dangers with which our country was threatened at that extraordinary session of Congress, to observe the efforts of an overweening economy pervade all their resolves. Thus the naval establishment was to be enlarged, as war with G. Britain was thought almost inevitable; and its augmentation is thus related by our author: 'On the 20th of November a committee of the senate had proceeded *so far* as to present to that body a bill for defraying the expence of building an additional number of gun-boats. The government had previously notified them that near two hundred and sixty gun boats would be necessary, of which about seventy were already provided. In distributing them, the greatest number, about fifty, was said to be required at New-York. The building of a gun-boat is said to cost about five thousand dollars, so that deducting those already built, and the stores already provided, a sum of eight hundred thousand dollars was said to be required to raise this *species* of navy to the force above mentioned.' All these topicks of controversy soon became merged in the great question of the embargo, which was soon after recommended by the President to congress. Innocent of all opinion on this subject, however, our author leaves it to his readers to understand whether government were precipitate in the adoption of that measure, whether it s beneficial to us or not, and whether it was calculated to produce the consequences on foreign nations, to which our administration with more confidence than judgment, looked forward as being so very conciliatory as to end all our commercial difficulties and place us again upon the footing of the most favoured nation. Our author merely relates the arguments of opposition and the replications on the part of the supporters of the administration; but does not advert to any real and intrinsick advantages which resulted from the measure, nor to the overwhelming distress in which the people of the eastern states had been plunged. For our own part we are apt to believe, there never was a great measure adopted by a nation, which on the whole, has operated so little to the detriment of other powers, and which more completely disappointed the expectations of its advocates, than the American embargo. Let us take for example the British West-India interest, which it was said the embargo would entirely destroy. It appears by a report of the committee of the West-Indian Docks, in London, that during the operation of our embargo, many more vessels were unloaded than ever were discharged in any year since the establishment of the institution. The article of sugar too, which before the embargo was established was so low in England, that the price would not pay the cost of cultivation and carrying to market, has risen so high as to afford a large profit, notwithstanding the additional quantity brought in the increased number of ships. One hundred and seventy-

four large West-India vessels have unloaded at the West India Docks this season, over and above the average number for the last five years.* The arguments against the embargo have strengthened by time; its advocates have been driven from every ground of controversy, till at length they have been obliged to desert it altogether.

In the IXth chapter the author enters upon the mission of Mr. Rose, relative to the Chesapeak disaster, which it was very probable would be impeded at the outset, by the intervention of two important circumstances. The nature and extent of the satisfaction demanded by our government, which had been dispatched to Mr. Munroe, were not the least impediment to an amicable issue. This atonement was 'a formal disavowal of the deed, and restoration of the *four* seamen to the ship from which they were taken. As a security for the future, *an entire abolition of impressments from vessels under the flag of the United States*, if not already arranged, is also to make an *indispensable* part of the satisfaction.'† A compliance with the first demand, as the author well observes, had been rendered impossible by the execution of Jenkin Ratford, at Halifax. The British proclamation of the 16th of October, 1807, with regard to deserters, presented a formidable obstacle to a compliance with the 'entire abolition of impressments,' which was stated as an 'indispensible' part of the satisfaction, to be demanded.

These objections to a reconciliation were increased by the opinion of the British Government, that the repeal of the proclamation of the President was a necessary preliminary to any negociation on the subject. Mr. Rose, on his arrival, found insuperable difficulties to encounter. The mingling of the Chesapeak attack with the general claim as to impressments, was manifestly unjust, because seamen in merchant ships, are in every respect differently situated from those on board ships of war. In one case, in addition to the seamen being considered on the national territory of the neutral country, there is a presumption that the government of such a nation will not knowingly retain foreign deserters in her service. In the case of merchant ships no such presumption exists, since it is not understood that a neutral government makes itself a party to the private contracts of individuals, which nevertheless may interfere with the interests and rights of the belligerent. The claim therefore of the universal immunity of the American

* From this report it appears, that sixty-eight more ships unloaded at the docks than the preceding season, and one hundred and seventy-four ships more than the average number of the five preceding years. Four hundred and sixty ships were unloaded with the following articles: 159,800 hogsheads and tierces of sugar, 26,900 puncheons and hogsheads of rum, 31,600 hogsheads and tierces and 150,400 bags of coffee, and 13,000 bags cotton.—[*Literary Panorama for February.*]

† Letters from Mr. Madison to Mr. Munroe, July 6, 1807.

flag in merchant ships, it was clear could never be conceded to us; and as Mr. Madison had made this an 'indispensable' item in the amount of reparation due for the insult on the national character, it was manifest that all hopes of Mr. Rose, to adjust the differences which had unfortunately been produced, must have rested on a very slender foundation.

Our author in the three last chapters IX. X. and XI. confines himself to the controversy between Mr. Rose and Mr. Madison, in which he gives a faithful abstract of the arguments advanced on both sides. When he speaks of the '*early, unequivocal and unsolicited* disavowal of an act not authorized,' on the part of the British minister, he expresses his feelings, in our opinion, rather too warmly. He says 'it cannot but occur that the merit ascribed to the British government, of a prompt, unequivocal and unsolicited disavowal of this act, and of the right of searching national ships, and the offer of atonement is quite imaginary.' It was by no means prompt and unsolicited, he observes, because it 'was wrung from Mr. Canning by the earnest remonstrances of Mr. Munroe;' and 'would be quite inconsistent with the caution and craft always to be expected from ministers of state.' It is evident that our author, in reasoning in this manner, considers the first note of Mr. Canning to Mr. Munroe before he knew any thing of the transaction off the Capes of Virginia, as nugatory, and as not amounting to any disavowal of the act of Admiral Berkley. As we have already had occasion to notice this very idea* in a previous part of this review, we shall now merely refer our readers to that passage, and confirm the sentiments which we there expressed.

'That the acknowledgment was far from unequivocal,' says our author, 'is evident from the causes in which the letter written in pursuance of a second remonstrance of the American ambassadour, in which the right of searching ships of war is virtually maintained; but only the execution of it, through the impulse of convenience foreborne.' Now the declaration of Mr. Canning to Mr. Munroe was, that his majesty's principles of justice and moderation had '*not permitted him to hesitate*,' in commanding Mr. Canning to assure Mr. Munroe, that 'his majesty neither does nor has at any time maintained the pretension of a right of searching ships of war in the national service of any state for deserters.' So far was this avowal from being *extorted*, as our author suggests, that it is made in consequence of a note sent to Mr. Canning from Mr. Munroe, before that minister had had authority from his government to treat upon the subject, and even before any statement of the facts attending it, had been precisely known. We are of opinion therefore, that Mr. Rose's declaration as to the early, unequivocal, and unsolicited disavowal of the unauthorised act of Admiral Berkley, was agreeable to truth and the spirit of amicable accommodation.

* Ordeal, page 242, 243.

The question as to the repeal of the proclamation was a mere question of etiquette. The British demanded it on the ground of its being a measure of retaliation for an injury sustained; if, therefore, that nation had determined to make *full and ample* reparation for an unauthorized act of its officers, the continuance of the proclamation would necessarily be a bar to the adjustment of the wrong, in so far as it was a self-assumed satisfaction on the part of the American government. Mr. Rose was therefore commissioned to make the repeal of this edict a necessary preliminary, to his offering the full and ample reparation, with which he was empowered. Mr. Madison affected to consider the proclamation as a measure of precaution against future repetitions of the like enormity; and declares the proclamation not to have been directed against the British nation for one particular aggression, but in consequence of a series of injuries and insults, terminating in the violent outrage of the attack upon the Chesapeak. Yet it was clear from the instructions which Mr. Munroe had received from Mr. Madison, that these previous occurrences were not considered urgent arguments in the case; they are merely alluded to by the secretary, and Mr. Munroe does not even allude to them or the proclamation in his remonstrance to the British minister. The proclamation, however it might have been justified in consequence of the flagrant attack on a national ship, was not called for on account of any previous aggressions, particularly as they formerly had been made separate subjects of negociation. The British Order of the 16th October contained a concession in respect to the attack, which might reasonably have removed all future apprehensions, especially if the violent opposition to it in England be taken into account.

The attack on the Chesapeak was made in the open sea; now, how the President's proclamation could, by prohibiting the ingress of British vessels of war in the ports of the United States, so operate as a *precaution*, as to prevent the search of national vessels on the ocean, it is difficult to conceive. Yet precaution was the avowed motive for this self-assumed redress, precaution against future injuries of a like nature; when the principal, in fact the real cause which produced it, was an aggression on the ocean. These were obvious considerations, which should have induced the president to have abandoned the proclamation, when enforced by the multiplied assurances on the part of the British government. First, Mr. Canning's disavowal of the pretension which the act implied; then the British proclamation for deserters, which is another concession; the improper acts of the American recruiting officer, which occasioned the attack, and afterwards the sending a special messenger to treat upon the subject; and repeated assurances given both by Mr. Rose and Mr. Canning of their willingness to offer reparation. The proclamation, however, was adhered to, and the mission failed. The consequences have been, that the country has

been nearly ruined by an embargo for more than a year, and produced in part by a too rigid adherence to a mere punctilio, which might have been removed without dishonour, *and in fact has lately been removed by our act of non-intercourse.* So that the government have done voluntarily what they refused to do by request eighteen months ago. By the non-intercourse act, both the French and English nations are formally placed upon equal ground, and government seem waiting to take the first advantage of a favourable change in either party.

We have now finished our contemplated review of the American Register, and we confess, we entertain some prejudice against the affected sensibility and croaking of our author, and indeed against many of his peculiarities of style; but we are much pleased with the publication on the whole. We consider it highly useful in its nature; it seems unexampled in this country, for industry and general accuracy of information, and though we recommend to our author not to show so evidently the democratick impulses of his feelings, in the historical narrative; yet we cannot but consider that his book may be rendered an important acquisition to the literature as well as politicks of the country.

THE PROCLAMATION OF PRESIDENT MADISON.

THE exultations of the democrats since the adjustment of the differences which have so long and so unhappily existed between the British government and ours, seem to derive their strongest interest from a presumption that the measures of the embargo and non-intercourse acts have produced important concessions in our favour; and that of consequence the wisdom of the administration of Mr. Jefferson, in establishing and continuing the embargo policy, is displayed beyond contradiction or reply. But whilst we participate with our fellow citizens in the general joy produced by the promulgation of that adjustment, and whilst we are willing to admit that President Madison has acted as he ought to have done on the occasion, we are still far from considering our embargo to have had any effect either in producing the reparation for the attack on the Chesapeak, or the proposal to rescind the Orders in Council of Nov. 1807. As a few considerations on these subjects, may serve to place matters upon a right ground, it will not be amiss to examine the subject at this time.

The attack on the frigate Chesapeak is the first subject which occurs in the correspondence between Mr. Erskine and Mr. Smith; and an offer is made by the British minister, that in the event of 'such laws taking place' as would place the relations of Great-Britain with the United States upon an equal footing in all respects with the other belligerent

powers, he would make an honourable reparation for that aggression. The objection to the previous reparation resulted from the existence of the proclamation of the President, which prohibited the ingress of British vessels in our waters. This proclamation being considered an act of retaliation by the British, was the principal bar to the adjustment of our differences, with that nation, and Mr. Rose returned home from an unsuccessful mission, expressly formed to afford satisfaction for the injury we had sustained. The embargo had been laid previously to the time of Mr. Rose's arrival in the United States; it was continued for more than a year, and the last publick documents which were published by our government, left Mr. Munroe and Mr. Canning perfectly at a loss how to proceed. All negociation had terminated; and the proclamation of the President seemed the insuperable objection to a continuance of the correspondence on the subject of the Chesapeak. In the mean time a law passes through congress, interdicting to all publick ships and vessels of France and Great-Britain, the entrance of the harbours of the United States; and authorising the President, (*without any reference to the Chesapeak*) 'in case either France or Great-Britain should so revoke or modify her edicts, as that they shall cease to violate the neutral commerce of the United States,' to renew our trade with the nations so doing. The proclamation of the President was thus virtually repealed; and an intimation was sent out to the British govenment long before the act passed, of the intention of congress to place both the belligerents upon terms of equality, in respect to aggressions committed.

The British ministry took a sudden advantage in this favourable turn of affairs to offer an honourable reparation for an unauthorized attack upon a national ship, a reparation which but for the interference of a mere punctilio, would have been as ample eighteen months ago. As this difficulty was voluntarily removed by our own government when they placed both nations upon an equality, we cannot subscribe to the propriety of the opinion of Mr. Secretary Smith, 'that this equality is a result incident to a state of things, growing out of distinct considerations.' Surely the 'distinct considerations' here alluded to, are not the decrees of France, for they had existed before the embargo was established. It is very difficult to understand the nature of these distinct considerations. The embargo certainly had proved ineffectual in all its branches of coercion, and it is perfectly idle to attribute the unwillingness of Great-Britain, to offer the proper reparation for her aggression on that ground.

The real truth is, that the Orders in Council, had become to all intents and purposes a dead letter. Whilst the last decrees of Napoleon continue in force, the orders have only an obnoxious effect without producing any real advantage. For after they are repealed, we are just as badly situated as we were before, in regard to the colonial trade:

Great-Britain found it useless to persist in continuing a measure which France was enforcing in her behalf, and of which her enemy would justly experience the odium, in the event of a repeal of the Orders. It is obvious, that Great-Britain has seized a most excellent opportunity to make a favourable impression on the minds of the American people; and without making a single sacrifice either of her rights or her interests, the British ministry will be able to silence the opposition in parliament and create a friend in America, whilst the French West-India commerce will be completely blockaded, and her own decrees will prevent her participation in any other neutral trade.

It seems very probable that Napoleon will take occasion to consider the equality with Great-Britain upon which he is placed in the non-intercourse act, as such a cause of offence as to induce him to condemn all the American property in France; and when he learns our differences with Great-Britain are accommodated, he may feel inclined to declare war against us. If so, Great-Britain, has a double triumph; since she has publickly declared herself the ally of any nation which should be in open hostilities with France. That it is the policy of Great-Britain to produce an enmity of this kind will not be denied; and the method she has taken to produce the end seems sufficiently probable: for what will be the state of things? England will blockade the French West-Indian possessions, and thus prevent us from obtaining any colonial produce from her enemy, whilst she secures her own West-Indian interests at home; she is on friendly terms with us only by sacrificing Orders which had become a nullity, and making honourable reparation due for an act, an adjustment of which had been prevented by the interference of a mere punctilio. France on the other hand, finds herself shut out from the whole commerce of the world; and now that Great-Britain has settled her American dispute, Napoleon will find his own navy interdicted as much as that of England was subsequent to the affair of the Chesapeak. This will naturally rouse his rage against us, and hatred to his foe; but where his animosity will fall is difficult, perhaps impossible, to determine.

THE STATE ELECTIONS.

THE federalists have once more gained a victory in the elections of Massachusetts; but the greatest trial is yet to be endured. The Governour and Senators are already ours; the Representatives must be made so. The arguments of which the democrats make use are not the less powerful among the people,

because they are intrinsically defective. The plausibility of political vice, like a base coin, will not readily be detected without analysis. By the seductive appearance of the wanton, she oftentimes eludes the discovery of her abandoned profligacy; particularly when she excites the passions. We have every thing to lose by this election, our comfort, importance, honour, and political security. The 'inextricable confusion,' which would ensue from it, would involve us in perpetual uproar. The times therefore, demand the exertions of all our influence, all our talents, and all our resources, to arrest the progress of fatal delusion in political opinions, and the influence of such variable winds of doctrine, as may swing the state government from her moorings. The arguments, the cavils, the insinuations, the misrepresentations, the falsehoods of our opponents, should be answered with fairness, repelled with truth, opposed with dignity, and controverted by facts. The late fortunate events, which have taken place in regard to our most vital interests with foreign powers, will be turned to party misrepresentations and exaggerations, and produce their full quota of errours and lies in the democratick papers. We shall consider it a permanent duty to undertake the consideration and refutation of all such palpable errours, subtle insinuations, and petty arts, of which, by what we have already observed, we are soon to discover an ample quantity. That the dignity and utility of this employment may not be denied; let it be recollected that the very Lord Grenville, now so much extolled by democracy, was formerly engaged in a work, together with Mr. Canning, the express object of which was to refute the falsehoods, unfold the baseness, and expose the cunning of the papers in opposition to Mr. Pitt. Though the success of the ANTI-JACOBIN, in England, may perhaps afford no security of the success of a similar attempt in this country, from various reasons, yet it is manifest, that the multiplied falsehoods, with which the democratick columns are polluted, require as effectual a remedy as ever they did in that country, and perhaps have as powerful an influence upon publick opinion. It may be thought necessary to confine ourselves generally to such subjects as may have an immediate influence on the approaching election; but we shall expose errours on general politicks or which relate to more remote events, as well as such as call for our immediate interference.

AUSTRIAN AND FRENCH TROOPS.

THE cloud of war which begins to rise in the western horizon of Europe, has perhaps already burst upon the countries it overshadows, in a torrent of desolation and carnage. The Austrian armies under the Arch-Duke Charles, one of the best generals of the day, under a new system of tacticks, which that officer has introduced since the last unhappy contest in Germany, from which anxious Europe has fruitlessly expected her emancipation and her safety, are probably at this moment struggling against the victorious forces of Napoleon. Austria has not been able to exist as an independent state, since the treaty of Luneville, the dismemberment of the coalition in 1805–6; or rather the want of affinity and cohesion in its very materials, has placed her in a situation in which she cannot exist without dishonour, and in which she cannot continue to exist without manifest danger. Notwithstanding the predictions of Gentz, in 1806, that the unconquered powers of Europe 'are no longer at liberty to run counter to their interests, and the confederacy must continue to exist from the nature and force of things,' yet Austria alone, of the powers then unconquered, seems the only one willing to resist the concentrated torrent of the French power.

If she had risen with all her might six months ago, the desponding world could then have hoped for success; the Spanish patriots would then have been materially relieved from the pressure of the whole weight of the French empire, and Europe might be again reanimated and awakened from the sleep of death. Our hopes are now feeble indeed, and the abilities of the Arch-Duke, the new system of tacticks, the necessity of *aggressive* hostility with which Austria must be impressed, together with our most ardent desires and impressions of the justice of her cause, cannot afford a gleam of expectation by which they can be enlivened. When the energy of one man is considered, who wields the most formidable power which the modern world has ever seen; when we think of the promptitude and decision with which this power is made to operate; and on the other hand, the weakness of a distracted cabinet, the inferiour numbers of the Austrian troops, and their continual defeats, when opposed to the French, we find such drawbacks on our desires, that all

ideas derived from mere favourable aspect of the cause, are to the last degree sickly and inanimate. The following characteristicks of the Austrian, compared with French soldiers, extracted from a celebrated work, entitled '*Charactere des armés Européene*, will perhaps be generally amusing at this critical moment.

'The French soldiers who are more active, more enterprizing and ready in availing themselves of every advantage of ground, will hang round bodies of men that are much more numerous than themselves; they molest, harass, and advance upon them by means of the smallest shelter. The Austrians, in the mean time, preserve their rank and file; but their oblique firing has not the least effect upon men who are either scattered about, or advantageously posted; while every discharge of the latter, being levelled at a considerable body, cannot fail of telling. When the Austrians advance, the riflemen withdraw, but return to the charge as soon as the Austrians retire again: the Austrian troop is thus harassed by an enemy that keeps out of its reach, and whose numbers, upon looking at the extent of ground which they occupy, appear more considerable than they really are. This method of fighting continues until the losses they have experienced, and the inutility of resistance, produce discouragement and confusion; and at length, the troops, overwhelmed with fatigue, and thrown into disorder, either disperse, or lay down their arms. The French who would not have dared to meet these same Austrians in open field, have often defeated and taken thousands of them with some hundreds of men only; for the instant their ranks are broken, the Austrians become like a flock of sheep dispersed, and incapable of reuniting. The coolness of the Austrian is inexplicable. The humiliation of surrendering their arms does not seem to affect them any more than the dangers of a battle. One would suppose, in considering their indifference, that it was nothing but the *finale* of a pantomime or ballet. The Austrians carry their fear of being outflanked or turned, to a degree which is at once ridiculous and extravagant; it might indeed be called a national disorder or weakness. They fancy themselves outflanked, or enveloped at the very moment in which they might surround those who have had the rashness to outrun them. This excessive apprehension disconcerts their plans, and drives them to retrograde movements at a time when, in order to beat the enemy, they have only to advance upon him.'

COUNTER OPINIONS.

THE opinions of the Ex-President ADAMS in relation to the French people and the British government have produced very high-strained compliments from the democratick leaders. He is now the patriot without stain or reproach, who formerly was a "hoary-headed incendiary." If he has changed his principles, let those, who admired his firmness and energy in 1798, seriously enquire whether, when he was in the full and vigorous enjoyment of his faculties, he was not probably as correct in his opinions, as at this moment, when he can condescend to reply to two obscure democrats in Northampton, whom he had never seen in his life. Here follows some extracts from the opinions of Mr. Adams, after the return of our ambassadours from the French Republick.

'As I have ever wished to avoid as far as prudence and necessity would permit, every concealment from my fellow citizens, of my real sentiments, in matters of importance, I will venture to ask you whether it is consistent with the peace we have made, the friendship we have stipulated, or even with civility, to express a marked resentment to a foreign power who is at war with another, whose ill will we experience every day, and who will, very probably in a few weeks, be acknowled an enemy in the sense of the law of nations? A power too, which invariably acknowledged us to be a nation for fifteen years; a power that has never had the insolence to reject our ambassadours; a power that at present convoys our trade and their own at the same time.'

The power, which he here so highly extols, is that very Great Britain, which he now so violently denounces. Observe what he says of France.

'For delaying counsels, the constitution has not made me responsible; but while I am entrusted with my present powers, and bound by my present obligations, *you shall see no more delusive negociations*. The safe keeping of American independence is in the energy of its spirit and resources. In my opinion, as well as yours, there is no alternative between war and submission to the Executive of France.'

'If the French will become the enemies of all mankind, by forcing all nations to follow their example, in the subversion of all the political, religious, and social institutions, which time, experience, and freedom have sanctioned, they ought to be opposed by every country, that has any pretensions to principle, spirit, or patriotism.'

'The real question before us seems to be, whether we shall involve ourselves in an unjust and unnecessary war of offence against one nation,—Or, be involved by the fraud and violence of another, in a juſt and necessary war of defence.—Besides, how many nations who have never injured, insulted or offended us are we to assist or contribute to destroy?'

ADVERSARIA.

Quid est, quod negligenter scribamus adversaria?—Cic.

PRAYERS.

I WISH that some of our clergymen, who are habituated to praying "an hour by the dial," would commit their prayers to memory, or to writing. In either case, an immense saving of time would be the consequence. Though I am no churchman, and hate the reading of prayers in publick worship, yet I would prefer a simple written form to an extemporaneous one, which is lengthened out with frequent tiresome pauses, and made disgusting by the most absurd and tautological repetitions, till *dulness can no louder snore.* Such prayers, instead of kindling, extinguish the flame of devotion. Instead of fixing the mind "on heaven and things above," they excite but little attention even among the most sober-minded of the hearers; and are fit objects for ridicule and laughter amongst those who are less devout.

If a clergyman, from want of words or of thought, is obliged to repeat the same prayer SIX TIMES a day, why not give it to his people in writing, and let every one read it for himself? This method would at least have one advantage—if his imagination should wander from the subject, it would be in the power of some of the congregation to set him right. It would, also, shorten the usual time of publick worship one third: and surely this time might be more profitably spent in any other manner or place, than in the indulgence of peevishness of temper or levity of conduct in the HOUSE OF GOD.

This subject is recommended to the serious contemplation of those whom it may concern.

SECTARIAN BLASPHEMY.

It is a subject of equal regret and mortification, that the religious enthusiasm, with which this country seems destined to be infected, should have attained to such outrageous extravagance and blasphemy among its sincere believers. It were seriously to be wished that the prostration and humility of mind, with which the Deity and his attributes should be mentioned, had never been displaced by a canting, familiar, and flippant conversation with heavenly beings, which has of late years disgraced many religious conventicles, and shocked the feelings of rational christians in every class of society. The manner in which some itinerant enthusiasts pretend to talk to the Deity, the expressions they utter, and the contortions of their bodies, are so disgusting and horrible to all the nicer feelings of christians, that we cannot speak of them without expressing, in the strongest language, indignation at their profanations. Let any rational man go into one of the midnight "conference meetings" of these enthusiasts; let him hear their language to the Deity, let him observe their conduct; and then let him undertake to repeat what he has heard and seen, and we venture to say, that the horrid blasphemies he would be obliged to utter in the relation would deter him from proceeding. All the low, mean, and disgusting allusions in human life are connected with the sublime attributes of God and his providence; and oftentimes, an ignorant, vain, and vehement preacher will use such language before his Maker, that every rational christian must tremble before the magnitude of his impiety, in the "undissembled homage of deferential horrour."

MASTER PAYNE

HAS finished his performances at the Boston Theatre, with great credit to himself, and satisfaction to the publick. He has played eight important dramatick characters,* with various success; in some of them, the powers he evinced were absolutely astonishing; in others he was deficient in force of utterance and identity of conception; but in all of them, his "defects were only as dust in the ascending scale of his merits."

* Norval, Zaphna, Romeo, Selim, Octavian, Tancred, Hamlet, and Rolla.

POETRY.

THE state of Connecticut is an example of an adherence to her original principles, highly honourable to that people, and the primitive integrity of their character. Like the needle, they have continued pointed directly to the polar star of Federalism, amidst the storms and tempests which surrounded them. The times demand that such a state should be exalted by the approbation of the wise and good. The following lines are extracted from a publication which originated in that very state, and does equal credit to the talents as well as principles by which it was conducted.

CONNECTICUT.

'And here, in erring reason's spite,
'Mid storms of truth, and floods of light,
Unmov'd by threats, unaw'd by fears,
CONNECTICUT her front uprears.
On democratick frontiers plac'd,
By spirits base and foul disgrac'd,
Annoy'd with Jacobinick engines,
And doom'd to governmental vengeance,
Strait on her course she firmly steers,
Nor gibes, nor tacks, nor scuds, nor veers,
Not the whole force they all can wield,
Can drive her vet'rans from the field.
The same pure, patriotick fires,
Which warm'd the bosoms of their sires,
That generous, that effulgent flame,
Which glow'd in Winthrop's deathless name,
Unsullied through their bosoms runs,
Inspires and animates her sons.'

WE have been considerably gratified with the perusal of an unfinished manuscript Poem, entitled 'A POLITICAL PRIMER, *composed in a new patent rhyming machine, and stuffed with most touching tropes and classick doggerel, by* TOBY TINGLE, Esq.' It consists chiefly of apostrophes to celebrated political characters in the United States. We shall endeavour to procure this poem, when complete, for the amuse-

ment of our readers. In the mean time we present them with the following short extract, copied from the manuscript by permission of the author.

****** stand forth!
Thy matchless worth
Will stuff each Demo's clay-poll,
Here, and in France,
While demons dance
Round Pandemonium's May-pole.

Lank man of lath,
Writhing with wrath,
Slander's High-Priest, canonical!
Hell smiles to see
Thy piety
Lighting her shrine, the *Chronicle*.

Lanthern of spite,
Beaming grim light,
Blotting heaven's face with greenness;
Thou man's eclipse,
Thy shadow tips
Nature with livid leanness.

Like Tinto's waves,*
A frost stream laves
Thy cold heart so congenial,
That, strange to sight;
'Twill stones unite—
Thy master and his menial.

On death's dark bed,
Ere thou—hope dead—
By fiends from life art hurried;
Then, miscreant, know,
The world thy foe,
Without one friend, thou'rt buried.

* TINTO, a river of Spain, whose waters have the power of cementing stones.